



Community Cat Management

A Different Approach

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Best Friends[®]
SAVE THEM ALL



Defining the Problem

- In Utah, 52% of all cats that enter shelters are killed
 - Compared to 17% of dogs
- Davis County Animal Services Return to Owner rate for cats in 2013 was 5%
 - Compared to 47% for dogs
- Cats must be treated differently than dogs in our shelter, specifically community cats
- Layton City's cat intake is approximately 1,132 annually



Community Cat Management

- What is a community cat?

"Community cat" means a feral or free-roaming cat that is without visibly discernable or microchip owner identification of any kind, and has been sterilized, vaccinated, and ear-tipped.

- *Utah State Code*



Community Cat Management

- Trap/Neuter/Return is a humane, non-lethal alternative to the trap-and-kill method of controlling cat populations
- Healthy (or easily treatable) cats are trapped, brought to a shelter or clinic to be sterilized and vaccinated, and released back to the area they were found
- Cats are ear tipped for future identification



What is the law?

- 11-46-303. Community cats.

(1) A cat received by a shelter under the provisions of Section 11-46-103 may be released prior to the five-day holding period to a sponsor that operates a community cat program.

(2) A community cat is:

(a) exempt from licensing requirements and feeding bans; and

(b) eligible for release from an animal shelter prior to the mandatory five-day hold period in Section 11-46-103.

(3) Community cat sponsors or caretakers do not have custody, as defined in Section 76-9-301, of any cat in a community cat colony. Cats in a colony that are obviously owned, as evidenced by a collar, tags, microchip, or other discernable owner identification, are not exempt from the provisions of Title 76, Chapter 9, Part 3, Cruelty to Animals.

(4) Sterilization and vaccination records shall be maintained for a minimum of three years and be available to an animal control officer upon request.

- Enacted by Chapter 130, 2011 General Session



The Vacuum Effect

Using trap-kill programs causes a phenomenon wherein if a cat's population is reduced, remaining cats will produce kittens at a higher rate to compensate. Even if all of the cats are removed, the habitat attracts new cats, drawing the community into a costly and endless cycle of trapping and killing.



How it Works - Benefits

- Reduces shelter admissions and operating costs while increasing adoption rates
- Creates safer communities by reducing the number of unvaccinated cats
- Improves the health and quality of lives of free roaming cats
- Reduces the behaviors that can lead to nuisance complaints such as fighting and yowling
- Increased job satisfaction among animal shelter employees
- TNR reduces the size of the colony over time



How it Works - Complainants

- A successful TNR program must include a plan to address the legitimate nuisance complaints by community members
 - Sterilization naturally reduces nuisance behaviors
- Best Friends staff canvases neighborhoods to explain the TNR program and offer resources
- Promote Deterrent Methods
 - Scat Mats, ScareCrow, CatStop



Results

Where Salt Lake County Started **16,000 Cats entering shelters in Salt Lake County!**

- Prior to 2010
 - 63% of cats coming into the shelter were being killed
 - Only 3-4% of cats were returned to owners
- Today
 - Shelter has a 94% total live release rate
 - Now averaging 90% for cats
 - Complaint calls for cats has declined
 - Return to owner rate for cats has increased to 9%



Results

Salt Lake County Animal Services Community Cat Program

	2010	2011	2012	2013
TNR	100	197	428	370
SNR	65	444	465	905
Total	165	641	893	1,275





What can Best Friends do?

- With Municipal Support, Best Friends will Implement a Community Cat Program
 - Work with Davis County Animal Care & Control to identify areas of high feral cat intake
 - Trap, Sterilize, Vaccinate, Release
 - Provide resources for affected communities
 - Deterrents, Spay & Neuter Services
 - Relocate cats if necessary



Questions?

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